
SECTION: CERTIFICATION

SUBJECT: Eligibility Requirement

ITEM: *Infants/Children: Nutrition Assessment Requirements*



Policy The WIC program requires that an infant/child have a nutrition need in order to qualify for benefits.

Authority for policy 7 CFR 246.7 (e)

Definition Indicators of nutrition need are health problems or behaviors that put the applicant's health at risk and which may be improved by the applicant participating in the WIC Program. In the past, WIC agencies used the term "nutrition risk" to refer to these nutrition indicators.

When to determine need The competent professional authority (CPA) (refer to WPM Section 130-20 for definition of CPA) conducts a nutrition assessment to determine if the infant/child meets the WIC program's definition of nutrition need. The CPA performs a nutrition assessment at:

- the initial certification, and
- each subsequent certification.

Nutrition assessment The CPA evaluates the participant's nutrition status to identify the infant's/child's indicator(s) of nutrition need based on approved criteria. The assessment is based on the following information:

- anthropometric (height/length and weight measurements),
- biochemical (laboratory blood test results),
- clinical (health, nutrition status, and social factors), and
- dietary (food intake).

Refer to WPM Sections 210-60.01 through 210-60.7 for detailed information on the indicators of nutrition need.

Documentation At a minimum, local agencies shall document the following in the Integrated Statewide Information System (ISIS):

- nutrition assessment information beginning with the appropriate “Health Information” screen,
- pregnancy outcome information on the “Pregnancy Outcome” screen when:
 - a woman recertifies from the pregnant category to the breastfeeding or nonbreastfeeding category, or
 - the infant of a woman described above is certified, and
- all anthropometric, biochemical, clinical and dietary codes identified during assessments throughout the certification period on the **Summary** screen.

Nutrition need not identified During an enrollment or certification appointment, if an infant or child does not have an indicator of nutrition need based upon the anthropometric, biochemical, clinical, or dietary assessment, the CPA shall:

- use the ISIS Ineligibility or Disqualification process to assign the appropriate ineligible or disqualification code as described in the ISIS Manual, (“Assign Ineligible Code-Family/Individual,” Enrollment Section and “Assign Disqualify Code-Family/Individual,” Recertification Section) and WPM Section 280-10,
- provide the WIC Participant Information Sheet (PM 344), and
- complete and distribute either a:
 - Notice of Action Affecting WIC Applicants (DHS 4134) or,
 - Notice of Action Affecting WIC Program Participation (DHS 4304).

Infant/child Local agencies shall use the ISIS screens and forms described in the tables below to perform a nutrition assessment of an infant/child.

Form Number	ISIS Screens/Form Name	Description
N/A	Infant/child enrollment and recertification screens	Used to assess health and determine indicators of nutrition need.
PM 247A PM 247B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WIC Pediatric Referral form (or alternate referral form) for infants, children, or • Information from hospital (crib card, birth certificate), or • medical/clinic record , or • measurements obtained at the WIC office. <p>Note: Local agencies shall keep the referral form on file for a minimum of three years.</p>	<p>Referral forms will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • anthropometric measurements with date, • biochemical values with date, • health care provider comments regarding physical/medical status, if applicable, and • signature of health care provider.

Infant/child (cont.)	Form Number	ISIS Screens/Form Name	Description
	DHS 4123	Infant Nutrition Questionnaire Note: Local agencies shall keep this form on file for a minimum of three years.	Nutrition questionnaire used for infants from 4 months up to 1 year old. Note: Local agencies may use an alternate form approved by the State WIC Branch if it includes mandatory questions 2 or 3 and 4, 5, 7, 10 and 11 from DHS 4123.
	DHS 4109	Child Nutrition Questionnaire Note: Local agencies shall keep this form on file for a minimum of three years.	Nutrition questionnaire used for children age 1-5 years old. Note: Local agencies may use an alternate form approved by the State WIC Branch if it includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mandatory questions 3,4,5,6, and 11 from DHS 4109, and • an assessment of dietary intake.
	DHS 4137	Breastfeeding/Postpartum Woman and Newborn Infant Questionnaire Note: Local agencies shall keep this form on file for a minimum of three years.	Nutrition questionnaire used for infants under 4 months old. Note: Local agencies may use an alternate form approved by the State WIC Branch if it includes questions 11 or 12 and 13 from DHS 4137.
	N/A	“Growth Chart” screen	Used to assess height and weight status.
	N/A	“Lab Results” screen	Used to interpret hemoglobin/hematocrit values.

Infant/child**(cont.)**

Local agencies may use the growth charts described in the table below to further assess and educate the parent regarding the anthropometric status of the infant/child.

Growth Charts	Description
Length-for-age percentiles: Girls, birth to 36 months Boys, birth to 36 months Weight-for-age percentiles: Girls, birth to 36 months Boys, birth to 36 months Weight-for-length percentiles: Girls, birth to 36 months Boys, birth to 36 months BMI-for-age percentiles: Girls, 2 to 20 years Boys, 2 to 20 years	Individual growth charts and Body Mass Index (BMI)-for-age charts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2000, with 5 th , 10 th , 25 th , 50 th , 75 th , 90 th and 95 th percentile lines.*

* Growth charts are available from CDC at www.cdc.gov/growthcharts including those with 3rd and 97th percentile lines.